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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

SENATE—Thursday, December 13, 2001

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEAN CARNAHAN, a Senator from the State of Missouri.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, You have blessed this Nation with truly great leaders in each period of our history. In Your providential care, You choose them, nurture their characters, hone their minds, and sharpen their convictions. You give them opportunities to serve You by caring for the needs of society. You allow their hearts to be broken by what breaks Your heart so that they can heal wounds, right wrongs, and lead others to grasp their full potential.

Today, we thank You for such a leader. You have placed Your hand of blessing on Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI. With Your endowed gifts of leadership, she has become a lodestar leader in her state and in her party, in the Senate, and in the Nation. Thank You for her intellectual acumen, her ability to get to the point, her loyal faithfulness, and her lively sense of humor. The Senator has the courage of her convictions and says what she means and means what she says. She is a patriotic American who is proud of her Polish heritage. We rejoice with Senator MIKULSKI today as she is given one of the highest honors ever bestowed by the Polish Government, the Commanders' Cross with Star of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. May this be a truly memorable day for her, her family, all Polish-Americans, and all of us here in the Senate family who are privileged to be her friends. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEAN CARNAHAN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD.)

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 13, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEAN CARNAHAN, a Senator from the State of Missouri, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. CARNAHAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, pursuant to the order entered last evening, there will be 90 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form on the Bond amendment prior to a vote in relation to that amendment. There will be no intervening amendment in order prior to that vote.

The majority leader also announced last night that, after having filed a cloture motion on this legislation, there would be a cloture vote on that matter either today or tomorrow, whatever the two leaders work out. There will be votes throughout the day, and we will await further word from the leader as to what is going to transpire this evening.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND RURAL ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2001

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1731, which the clerk will report. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1731) to strengthen the safety net for agricultural producers, to enhance resource conservation and rural development, to provide for farm credit, agricultural research, nutrition, and related programs, to ensure consumers abundant food and fiber, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Daschle (for Harkin) Amendment No. 2471, in the nature of a substitute.

Bond Amendment No. 2513 (to Amendment No. 2471), to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to review Federal agency actions affecting agricultural producers.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be 90 minutes debate, equally divided and controlled in the usual form, on the Bond amendment, No. 2513.

The Senator from Missouri.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR MIKULSKI

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I yield myself such time as I may require.

First, before I get into the discussion of this amendment, which I think is very important, I want to add an earthly endorsement to the holy blessings that our Chaplain just brought upon our very good friend and colleague, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI.

It is a great honor she receives today. We all rejoice with her. She has been an outstanding Member of this body, one whose compassion, commitment, and good humor have seen us through many difficult times.

As one who has had the pleasure of working with her on the Veterans Affairs, HUD, Independent Agencies appropriations subcommittee, I can tell you there is no finer, more dedicated servant in the Senate. It is with great joy that we congratulate her on the very outstanding and generous award made to her today by the land of her forefathers, the Government of Poland.